

(b) the approximate cost of converting the above trace into a road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (a) $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

(b) About Rs. 8,800.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government are aware that the Aruvikara trace is in a cartable condition now?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I will accept that statement from the member, Sir. I have not seen it.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government why an amount of Rs. 8,800 is required to improve that trace which has got only an extent of two and three-fourths miles?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): For building culverts.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know how many culverts have to be constructed in that trace?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): A few pipe culverts and two masonry culverts and a bridge.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the approximate cost?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The rough estimate for converting the trace into a road is about Rs. 8,800. That does not include gravelling or metalling; and as that road is close and parallel to the Vellanad road which is going to be connected up by the Water Works Division, the Government do not consider that it is of urgent importance.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government are aware that the Public Works Department sometimes submits prohibitive estimates with regard to the improvement of roads, so that the roads may not be taken up by Government?

PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that question. It is an assumption.

Onam Holidays.

63. *MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as the result of their consideration, they have come to any definite decision regarding the question of raising the number of public holidays in the State to ten in connection with the Onam Festival; and

(b) if so, the result of the same?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes.

(b) Such holidays cannot be increased.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the Government the reasons for maintaining the view that such holidays cannot be increased?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are already a sufficiently large number of holidays in the year and Government do not therefore think it necessary to increase the number any more.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the existing number of Christmas holidays?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think it varies from 9 to 11 days.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the total number of holidays in a year?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I find that the number of holidays in one year for which information has been collected is somewhere about 108 days including, of course Sundays.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the reason for maintaining the view that there should be 9 to 11 days as Christmas holidays?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As the honourable member may know, Christmas is only on one day, though the holidays are called Christmas holidays. They are not intended for Christmas. That is the best season when the officers can go for a change. So Government thought it would be better to increase the number of holidays during Christmas so as to allow the officers to have the chance of going out for a change.

PRESIDENT: After hard work for two hundred odd days.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know why that principle cannot be applied in the case of the Onam holidays?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Christmas season is the best season for the purpose.

PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary said that there are already such a large number of holidays that Government do not consider it necessary to increase the number.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know from the Government whether they are prepared to decrease the number of Christmas holidays and increase correspondingly the number of holidays for Onam?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question of reducing the number of holidays is under the consideration of Government.

MR. CHANGANACHERRY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattu cum Pattanapuram*): On an average, how many working days are there in a year for those departments which have vacations?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am sorry I have to claim notice.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Are the Government aware that there are concessional rates by railway during Christmas?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the member how many are Christian holidays and how many are Hindu holidays?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know what the Government mean by the words 'such holidays'?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Onam holidays.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : I infer that Government have classified the holidays into various kinds or else the words 'such holidays' will have no place there. May I know from the member under which classification the Onam holidays are included?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer simply means that Onam holidays cannot be increased.

The Aykad Bridge.

64. ***MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*) : With reference to the answer to question No. 31 in the last Session, of the Sri Mulam Assembly, will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by them or the Chief Engineer after the receipt of the estimate and plans for the construction of the Aykad bridge on the Chengannur-Kozhenchery road, submitted by the Division Officer, Quilon, to the Chief Engineer; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the negative, the reasons for the same?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : (a) The Chief Engineer inspected the site of the bridge and proposed a slight deviation of the site from that proposed by the Division Officer. Consequently the estimate and plans received from the Division Officer have to be revised suitably. This is being done by the Chief Engineer.

(b) This does not arise.

Appointments in the Registration Department.

65. ***MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil, II*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates that passed in the Registration Entrance Examination held in the years 1095 and 1096 M. E.

(b) the number of passed candidates employed hitherto in Government service; and

(c) the number of passed candidates who have not hitherto been employed or who are for the time being without any Government service?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(a) The Registration Entrance Examination was conducted in the years 1094 and 1095. No examination was held subsequently. The number of candidates that passed in those years was 277.

(b) 148 persons have been permanently appointed in the department. 41 candidates still remain in the waiting list of acting clerks of the department of whom five are temporary clerks, six are acting in long vacancies and others are acting off and on.

(c) Exact information is not available.